

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Insert the following new paragraph before paragraph [0001] and renumber the consecutive paragraphs that follow:

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**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

a1 This application is related to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/920,294, entitled "Electronic Control Unit and Method for the Automatic Activation of the Parking Brake in Motor Vehicles".

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Insert the following new paragraph between paragraphs [0009] and [0010] and renumber the consecutive paragraphs that follow:

a2 Figure 2 is a schematic block diagram of a second embodiment according to the present invention.

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Please amend paragraph [0014] as follows:

a3 <sup>s</sup>  
[0014] ~~In Referring to Figure 2, in~~ accordance with a second possibility, based on which the motor vehicle can be started with an electronic authorization verification device with a wireless code transmission 18, the arbitrary prevention of the automatic activation of the parking brake can be triggered by inserting the authorization verification device in a holding shaft 18 provided for this purpose. For example, a switch is indirectly manually actuated when the authorization verification device is inserted in the holding shaft. Such an authorization verification device can be a magnetic card for example. For example, a holding shaft 18 that is already provided for another module can be used. In the case of an authorization verification device in accordance with German patent document

DE 198 23 707 A1, the authorization verification device, e.g. in the form of a magnetic card, can be inserted into the shaft of the device to hold additional memory after prior removal. Such an electronic "key", e.g. in the form of a

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magnetic card, a transponder or additional memory, must therefore be stored at a specified location on the vehicle. This function also corresponds to leaving the key in the ignition.

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